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Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EA-10 EUR-12 ACDA-12 CIAE-00
INR-10 IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-05
SOE-02 DODE-00 DOE-11 SS-15 SP-02 CEQ-01 /127 W
----------071985 121511Z /53
R 110706Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 126

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 3875

FOL IS BOMBAY TEL 0622 TO NEW DELHI MARCH 10, 1978 SIGNED COURTNEY
RPTD

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOMBAY 0622

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MNUC, IN
SUBJECT: INDO-VIETNAMESE NUCLEAR COOPERATION

1. DURING TALK ON ANOTHER SUBJECT THIS MORNING SETHNA GAVE ME THE FOLLOWING ACCOUNT OF DEVELOPMENTS IN NUCLEAR COOPERATION WITH VIETNAM. DURING RECENT VISIT OF PRIME MINISTER PHAN VAN DONG, SETHNA SAID THAT VIETNAMESE BASICALLY MADE THREE REQUESTS A) ASSISTANCE FOR A REACTOR WHICH WE HAD LEFT THERE BUT FOR WHICH THEY HAD NO FUEL. INDIA SIMPLY REPLIED AS FUEL REQUESTED WAS ENRICHED URANIUM THERE WAS NO POSSIBILITY OF INDIA'S HELP BECAUSE INDIA HAS NO ENRICHED URANIUM OF ITS OWN. IN RESPONSE TO VIETNAMESE QUERIES SETHNA TOLD VIETNAMESE ONLY SOURCE OF FUEL THAT HE KNOW OF WAS U.S. UR USSR. B) VIETNAMESE ASKED HELP WITH ISOTOPES FOR USE IN HYDROLOGY, MEDICINE AND RICE CULTURE. C) VIETNAMESE WANTED HELP IN ASSESSING AND
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EVALUATING URANIUM ORE.

2. SETHNA SAID THAT IN RESPONSE TO B AND C ABOVE HE OFFERED VIETNAMESE THREE OR FOUR FELLOWSHIPS THAT HE PROPOSED BE PLACED UNDER IAEA PROGRAM, THAT IS, THEY WOULD BE FUNDED WITH RUPEES WHICH INDIA SETS ASIDE EACH YEAR FOG TRAINING OF FOREIGN

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SCIENTISTS AND TECHNICIANS IN INDIA UNDER THE
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION PROGRAM WHICH HAS
BEEN GOING ON HERE FOR OVER 20 YEARS. HE HAS
THE IMPRESSION THAT THE VIETNAMESE INTEND
TO ACCEPT THIS OFFER EVEN THOUGH THERE IS UN-
RESOLVED QUESTION AS TO WHERE VIETNAMESE WOULD
GET ISOTOPES TO CONTINUE THE PROGRAM IN THEIR
OWN COUNTRY. SETHNA SAID THAT HE GAVE NO
ENCOURAGEMENT THAT INDIA WOULD BE ABLE TO SUPPLY
ISOTOPES FOR THIS PURPOSE BUT POINTED OUT THAT
THIS IS AN AREA WHERE THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT
MAY WELL HAVE FURTHER WORDS. HOWEVER HE EMPHASIZED
THAT INDIA HAS BEEN MORE RESTRICTIVE THAN PRACTICALLY
ANY OTHER COUNTRY WITH SIZEABLE NUCLEAR PROGRAM IN
SHARING SCIENTIFIC TECHNOLOGY OR MATERIALS. HE
NOTED THAT INDIA HAS NEVER GIVEN ANY ASSISTANCE
OF ANY KIND CONNECTED WITH REPROCESSING PLANTS
OR RADIO CHEMISTRY.
COURTNEY
UNQUOTE
GOHEEN

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